

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 8470

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SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR TO ETHIOPIA
AND NIGERIA, AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

REF A) USDOC 10953 B) ADDIS ABABA 0860

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED PROPOSED SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND TOPICS FOR TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OF ETHIOPIA (TSE) AS WELL AS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ADDIS ABABA. OFFICIALS CONTACTED HAVE EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF SUGGESTED TOPICS. TSE ENGINEERING MANAGER ESTIMATED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD PROBABLY SUPPLY AVERAGE OF 20 ATTENDEES FOR THE SESSIONS. PROBABLE ATTENDANCE FROM OUTSIDE TSE IS 4 OR 5 PERSONS. TSE OFFICIAL REQUESTED THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, SPEAKERS SUBMIT COPIES OF THEIR PAPERS IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW STUDY BY INTERESTED TSE STAFF.

2. TSE ENGINEERING MANAGER SAID HIS ORGANIZATION'S CONFERENCE ROOM WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE SEMINAR. EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES THAT THIS ROOM BE USED TO FACILITATE ATTENDANCE BY TSE OFFICIALS AND TECHNICIANS AS WELL AS OTHERS DUE TO CONVENIENT LOCATION. USE OF TSE CONFERENCE ROOM WILL ALSO SERVE TO EMPHASIZE ETHIOPIAN COOPERATION WITH SEMINAR AND GIVE APPEARANCE OF TSE SPONSORSHIP OF SEMINAR.

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3. ONLY COMMENT TSE OFFICIAL HAD REGARDING SCHEDULE WAS DESIRE

TO AVOID FRIDAY AS SEMINAR DAY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
TSE EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND POLITICAL MEETINGS ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON. WHILE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED A DESIRE NOT TO SCHEDULE SEMINAR ON FRIDAY MORNING, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IF NECESSARY SEMINAR COULD RUN ALL DAY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY WITH WRAP-UP SESSION ON FRIDAY MORNING. PLEASE ADVISE HOW MUCH TIME WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE SEMINAR SESSIONS AND ANY ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULES PROPOSED BY MISSION DIRECTOR.

4. PARA 3 REF A INDICATES THAT PARTICIPANTS MAY BE MISINFORMED AS TO "AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS" LOCATED IN ADDIS ABABA. REF B POINTED OUT THAT PAN AFRICAN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK HEADQUARTERS DID NOT EXIST IN ADDIS ABABA. THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION HAS TWO MEN IN ADDIS ABABA. GABRIEL TEDROS IS ITU REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EAST AFRICA AND FRANK NORMAN IS ITU ADVISOR TO AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. NORMAN'S ONE-MAN OFFICE ATTEMPTS TO COORDINATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN NATIONS. PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS HOWEVER ARE DONE BY EACH INDIVIDUAL NATION. IN ADDITION, THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA HAS A COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR, FRANK COLEMAN. UNFORTUNATELY NORMAN WILL BE OUT OF ETHIOPIA DURING PROPOSED TIME FRAME FOR SEMINAR. GABRIEL SAID CHANCES WERE "50-50" HE WOULD BE IN ADDIS ABABA AT THAT TIME. COLEMAN IS CURRENTLY TRAVELING IN THE U.S. AND COULD NOT BE CONTACTED.
HIS SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD "PROBABLY" BE IN ADDIS ABABA DURING THE SEMINAR. THUS, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE REGIONAL IMPACT OF THEIR VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA WILL PROBABLY BE MARGINAL.

5. AS WAS REPORTED REF B, FULL SCALE PAN AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION HEADQUARTERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED, PROBABLY IN KINSHASA, WITH DETAILS TO BE DECIDED AT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1976 IN ADDIS ABABA. TUS REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION WITH HEADQUARTERS AND STAFF IS AT LEAST TWO YEARS AWAY.

6. EMBASSY HAS RESERVED EIGHT SINGLE ROOMS AT ADDIS ABABA HILTON HOTEL. PRICE PER ROOM IS US\$26.24. WE HAVE ALSO RESERVED A SUITE FOR THE MISSION DIRECTOR AT COST OF US\$85.32 PER NIGHT.
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